(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps in this regard so far; and,

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) There is no need of abolishing subsidy to the agriculture. However, in order to raise resources for investment in agriculture, it is necessary to prune open-ended subsidies.

(c) and (d) For increasing the capital investment in agriculture, the Central plan outlay for the year 2004-05 (BE) in respect of Agriculture and Allied sectors has been increased to Rs 4642.74 crore from the 2003-04 Revised Estimate of Rs. 3670.81 crore which represents a step-up of 26.47 per cent. In addition to this, the Planning Commission has provided an additional budget support of Rs. 440 crore to the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation and Rs. 100 crore to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying during the annual plan 2004-05. Further, the Government has advised the banks to double the credit to the agriculture sector in the next three years.

Job opportunity

1538. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission's study revealed that 45 million people would be jobless in India by 2007; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to create more job opportunities in India in various sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Tenth Plan projected the number of unemployed persons in the country to go down from 34.85 million in 2001-02 to 21.15 million in 2006-07 as measured on Current Daily Status (CDS) basis. The Tenth Five Year Plan document also gives a scenario of low economic growth and no changes in policies, which results in an unemployment level of 45.56 million (CDS basis) in 2007.

(b) The Approach to the Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of Tenth Five Year Plan has reiterated the objective of the Plan that the employment growth should exceed growth of labour force. In order to achieve this objective, the strategies advocated include:

- Promotion of public investment in rural areas.
- Reforms in the financial sector for higher investment in the Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Unleashing the potential of large-scale employment creation in the Construction sector, especially in urban areas.
- Improvements in infrastructure for expansion in private investment.
- Support to services industry, including software and all IT enabled services, trade, distribution, transport, telecommunication, finance and tourism.
- Greater focus on agro-processing and rural services.

Production of vehicles

†1539. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that besides a fall in production of commercial vehicles, the production of other four-wheeler and two wheeler vehicles have also reduced;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the prime reason for fall in production of commercial vehicles is the dearth of infrastructure;

(c) if so, whether Government have proposed wide range of provisions to improve the infrastructure for the remaining period of the Tenth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no downward trend in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.